Northern Railway, the travelling public is being put to avoidable hardships and have to wait for a minimum of one hour to get a ticket;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to bring down the time taken in issuing railway tickets and to improve upon the public service?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) It is only during the peak periods that the waiting time per passenger exceeds one hour at the reservation counters in metropolitan and major cities. During other parts of the year, the waiting time varies from 20 to 40 minutes at the reservation counters. At the booking counters, where unreserved tickets are sold, the waiting time per passenger varies from 5 to 30 minutes from place to place and season to season.

(b) The waiting time during rush period increases on account of substantial increase in the demand for reservations.

(c) The steps taken by the Railways *inter alia* include expansion of the computerised locations, opening to satellite reservation offices, extension of the working hours of the reservation/booking counters and provision of additional reservation/booking counters.

Production of Diesel Engines

*192 SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has taken place with a foreign country for the production of modern Diesel Engines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith allocation made and proposed location of the manufacturing units?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

In order to upgrade the technology and manufacture State-of-the-art locomotives in India, a global tender was floated and finalised in favour of M/s Electro Motive Division, General Motors Corporation, USA. These locomotives will be built at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi (DLW). This contract is for supply of the latest technology alongwith 21 locos, including 8 locomotives in knocked down condition which will be assembled at DLW, Varanasi.

The letter of acceptance has been issued in July, '95. The price of transfer of technology is US $ 17.5 million (Rs. 61 Cr) and the total cost of the 21 locomotives is US $ 41 million (Rs. 143 Cr).

DLW is likely to commence assembly of the locomotives received in knocked down condition in April 1998 onwards. No allocations are made in 1996-97 since deliveries are expected only after March 1998.

Development of Oilseeds

*193 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total Central assistance provided to each State for the development of oilseeds during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the area under oilseeds cultivation; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this direction particularly in the Karnataka State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDARY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in 22 States including Karnataka for increasing the production of oilseeds in the country. One of the strategies being adopted under oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is to increase the area under oilseeds cultivation through various measures like sequential cropping, inter-cropping, replacement of low economy crop and as substitute crop in problematic areas/situations.

STATEMENT

(Rs in lakhs)

S No	State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	1436 55	1452 100	1413 39
2	Assam	155 743	231 850	165 02
3	Arunachal Pradesh	29 891	28 520	24 10
4	Bihar	69 12	N R	97 78
5	Gujarat	931 449	500 000	549 45
6	Haryana	160 81	N R	162 50
7	Himachal Pradesh	14 46	N R	29 23
8	Jammu and Kashmir	66 397	N R	N R
9	Karnataka	750 00	715 200	183 38
10	Kerala	N R	67 500	132 24
11	Madhya Pradesh	1005 849	1379 040	1144 43
12	Maharashtra	985 03	961 520	1032 27
13	Manipur	22 026	8 775	108 26
14	Meghalaya	15 825	7 500	6 00